

# ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN "BLUE" CHURCH

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**The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost – August 1, 2021**

**PRELUDE – “Simple Gifts” – Nigel Williams**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy. **Amen.**

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

*Silence for reflection*

God our provider,  
**help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.**

Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, ✠ the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life. **Amen.**

**HYMN #647 GLORIOUS THINGS OF YOU ARE SPOKEN  
(USING HYMN TUNE #823)**

### GREETING

From God our Father and the LORD Jesus Christ, grace and peace be with you all.

**And also with you.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray...O God, eternal goodness, immeasurable love, you place your gifts before us; we eat and are satisfied. Fill us and this world in all its need with the life that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and LORD. **Amen.**

### FIRST LESSON:

**EXODUS 16:2-4, 9-15**

### PSALM 78:23-29 *Spoken responsively*

<sup>23</sup>So God commanded the clouds above  
and opened the doors of heaven,

<sup>24</sup>**raining down manna upon them to eat  
and giving them grain from heaven.**

<sup>25</sup>So mortals ate the bread of angels;  
God provided for them food enough.

<sup>26</sup>**The LORD caused the east wind to blow in the heavens  
and powerfully led out the south wind,**

<sup>27</sup>raining down flesh upon them like dust  
and flying birds like the sand of the seas,

<sup>28</sup>**letting them fall in the midst of the camp  
and round about the dwellings.**

<sup>29</sup>So the people ate and were well filled,  
for God gave them what they craved.

### SECOND LESSON:

**EPHESIANS 4:1-16**

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 6<sup>th</sup> Chapter.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

### THE HOLY GOSPEL: JOHN 6:24-35

The Gospel of the LORD.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### THE SERMON

**HYMN #618 GUIDE ME EVER, GREAT REDEEMER**

### APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our LORD.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and  
born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

## THE PRAYERS

*Response: Your mercy is great.*

## EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

*The pastor offers the prayer.*

## LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,**

## HOLY COMMUNION

### BLESSING

The Body and Blood of our LORD Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

### PRAYER

Let us pray...Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray. **Amen.**

### BENEDICTION

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, ✠ be upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

**HYMN #656** *BLEST BE THE TIE THAT BINDS*

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE – “TO GOD BE THE GLORY” – LLOYD LARSON

✠                      ✠                      ✠

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## WELCOME TO ALL IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST!

We especially welcome those who are visiting. We invite you to sign our guest register in the narthex. Blank envelopes in the pews are for visitors.

*“God’s purpose for St. Paul’s Lutheran Blue” Church is to spread the Good News of Christ’s love for all people in the Southern Lehigh community and beyond.”* –Blue Church Mission Statement, adopted 2012

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## THE DAY IN THE CHURCH YEAR....THE 10<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

*Apparently not satisfied by Jesus’ feeding of thousands, some who were there press him for a sign of his power; perhaps it is daily manna they want. As always in John’s gospel when people want a sign. Jesus offers himself. He is the bread come from heaven to give life to the world. He calls us to come to him and believe in him, and through that relationship to know the one who sent him.*

### ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE READINGS.....

**EXODUS 16:2-4, 9-15:** *A food crisis becomes a faith crisis for the Israelites in the wilderness. The hungry people forget God’s saving work in the exodus, and they wish for the food they had in Egypt. Nevertheless, God miraculously meets their needs, with manna for bread and quail for meat.*

**EPHESIANS 4:1-16:** *Christians share fundamental unity and diversity. Our unity consists in the one body, one Spirit, one LORD, one faith, one baptism, and one God. Our diversity is expressed in various forms of ministry, whose goal is equipping the saints and building up Christ’s one body.*

**JOHN 6:24-35:** *Many of the five thousand people Jesus fed in the wilderness continued to follow him throughout the countryside. Jesus challenges them to consider the real nature of their quest.*

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**PRAYER FOR PENTECOST 11:** Lord, give us the bread of life. (See John 6:34)

**PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:** Lord Jesus, you are the source of our skills and talents. Help us use them to strengthen the unity of your body, the church. Amen.

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**BLUE CHURCH PRAYS FOR...**Cyndie Cline, Sandra Denora, Bill Exner, Ann Greensweig, Andrea Incacaterra, Frank Kelly, Robin King, Beverly Lerch, Peter Link, Carl Ritter, Candice Robinson, Jerry Smith, Sue Storat, Kathy, Connie, Stephen.

**Other concerns:**

*Note: This is a short-term list, for those who are in “acute care” situations—hospitalized or in recovery, dying, facing the recent death of a loved one, or presently facing a severe life crisis. The names of those for whom we pray will be kept on the list for one month. If you wish to have them placed back on the list please contact the church office.*

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**LEADING OUR WORSHIP**

**CELEBRANT** The Rev. James Hammond  
**ORGANIST** Dr. Jennifer Dodd  
**ASSISTING MINISTER** Dick Storat  
**LECTOR** Dick Storat  
**GREETERS** Ron & Carol Stoudt  
**CHURCH COUNCIL REP** John Sumoski

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**WEEKLY GIFTS, PRESENTED TO THE GLORY OF GOD:  
SANCTUARY LAMP...**by Bill & Kathy Exner.

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**BLUE CHURCH GARDEN OF GIVING** is really coming alive with fresh produce (tomatoes, beans, zucchini, eggplant, etc. Check it out and take what you can use. Also check the refrigerator in the church kitchen for produce. Simply give a donation marked “Garden of Giving” and it will be forwarded to Betty Lou’s Food Pantry.

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**LOOKING AHEAD**

**AUGUST 8 – 9:30 AM Worship in the Fellowship Hall.  
The Fellowship Hall is air-conditioned for the summer Worship services.**

**AUGUST 9 – 7 PM Church Council Meeting.**

**SEPT. 12 – 10:30 AM Worship and Picnic at Upper Saucon Township Park. Sides and deserts are requested for the picnic. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board outside of Fellowship Hall for you to sign up.**

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**BETTY LOU’S PANTRY UPDATE...**Most needed donations at the pantry right now:

Tuna Helper Chunky Soups Baked Beans Kidney Beans

Other things always needed:

Toilet paper, jelly (other than grape), non-sugared cereal, hygiene products (other than soap)

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**A CHURCH GARDEN**

**First, plant five rows of peas:**

**Presence**  
**Promptness**  
**Preparation**  
**Purity**  
**Perseverance.**

**Nest to these, plant three rows of squash:**

**Squash gossip.**  
**Squash criticism.**  
**Squash indifference.**

**No garden is complete without turnips:**

**Turn up for meetings.**  
**Turn up with a smile.**  
**Turn up with new ideas.**  
**Turn up with determination to make  
everything count for something good  
and worthwhile.**

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heavens, so that he might fill all things.) <sup>11</sup>The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup>to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup>until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. <sup>14</sup>We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. <sup>15</sup>But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, <sup>16</sup>from whom the whole body, joined and knitted together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

### **John 6:24-35 - Gospel**

<sup>24</sup>So when the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus.

<sup>25</sup> When they found him on the other side of the lake, they said to him, 'Rabbi, when did you come here?' <sup>26</sup>Jesus answered them, 'Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. <sup>27</sup>Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for

eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.' <sup>28</sup>Then they said to him, 'What must we do to perform the works of God?' <sup>29</sup>Jesus answered them, 'This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.' <sup>30</sup>So they said to him, 'What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing?' <sup>31</sup>Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, "He gave them bread from heaven to eat." ' <sup>32</sup>Then Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. <sup>33</sup>For the bread of God is that which\* comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.' <sup>34</sup>They said to him, 'Sir, give us this bread always.'

<sup>35</sup> Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'

**St. Paul's Lutheran "Blue" Church**  
**Prayers ✕ 10th Sunday after Pentecost ✕**  
**August 1, 2021**

A: Rooted in Christ and sustained by the Spirit, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation, responding,

**"Your mercy is great."**

*A brief silence*

A: You call your church to be the body of Christ. Awaken all the baptized to the gifts you provide for carrying out the work of ministry. Where the church is divided, knit us together and restore the unity of the faith. Hear us, O God.

**"Your mercy is great."**

A: You command the clouds above and cause the wind to blow in the heavens. Watch over deserts and wilderness places. Regenerate rainforests, defend species at risk of extinction, and strengthen the work of conservation organizations. Hear us, O God.

**"Your mercy is great."**

A: You summon leaders to respond to the needs of your people. Instill those who govern with patience when confronted with grievances and perseverance in seeking what promotes the well-being of the community. Hear us O God.

**"Your mercy is great."**

A: You draw near to those who cry out for help. Feed those who are hungry, reassure those who are despairing, and accompany those who are imprisoned. Rain down the true bread from heaven that gives life to the world. Today we pray especially for: Cyndie, Sandra, Bill, Ann, Andrea, Frank, Robin, Beverly, Peter, Carl, Candice, Jerry, Sue, Kathy, Connie, Stephen, and

everyone who has asked for our prayers or known only to the Lord. Hear us O God.

**"Your mercy is great."**

A: You receive all who come seeking a sign of grace. Make Blue Church a place of hospitality for those accustomed to rejection. To those who have felt excluded here or elsewhere, prepare us to welcome them in the name of Christ. Hear us, O God.

**"Your mercy is great"**

A: You provide food that endures for eternal life. Sustain us each day with the bread of life until we are gathered with all the saints and feast together at your heavenly banquet. Hear us, O God.

**"Your mercy is great."**

**Pastor: We lift these and all our prayers to you, O God, confident in the promise of your saving love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**